

CBS PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR VOLUME 61

The Council for the California Botanical Society has experienced considerable transitions in this our 101st year as a Society. We have ten new Council members for the next year. These new members were elected at the annual banquet and include, Mark Brunell, University of the Pacific, as the new President; J. Travis Columbus, Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, as the 2nd Vice President; Nancy Morin, Flora of North America Association, as the Recording Secretary; Sheryl Creer, Insignia Environmental, as the Corresponding Secretary; David Margolies, Franz Incorporated, as the Treasurer, Will Freyman, University and Jepson Herbaria, as the webmaster; Jessica Orozco, Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, and Adam Schneider, University and Jepson Herbaria, as the Graduate student representatives; Dylan Burge, California Academy of Sciences, as the new Council Member at Large. Continuing on the council are myself, but now as Past President, Andrew Doran, as 1st Vice President, Kim Kersh, as Membership Chair, Staci Markos, Member at Large, Matt Ritter, as Editor of Madroño, and Lynn Yamashita, as Society Administrator. The perspectives brought by the new Council Members should invigorate the Society yet again. At the same time, we profusely thank the outgoing members for their hard work, especially for organizing the Centennial last year; these include Genevieve Walden, Dean Kelch, Anna Larsen, Tom Schweich, Rich Whitkus, Mike Vasey, and Bier Kraichak.

Following the Centennial, the Council faced a series of hills to get over rather than the large mountain of the Centennial. As a consequence, we felt a bit at loose ends at first, but ended up with a busy and productive year. Much of the year was involved with transitions in the Council, beginning the organization of the Spring 2015 Graduate Student Meetings at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, and organizing the Spring 2014 Annual Banquet. A new initiative is to provide support for graduate students to attend the 2015 meeting.

For those of you unable to make it, the annual banquet this year was held on Saturday, April 26, at the conference center of the Romberg Tiburon Center for Environmental

Studies (San Francisco State University), near Tiburon (Marin County, California). During the day, Marin County locals Doreen Smith and Eva Buxton, along with Mike Vasey and Dean Kelch from the Council, led a field trip to the serpentine areas of Ring Mountain. That was followed by a Social and business meeting, after which we heard a wonderful talk by Dr. Susan Harrison (UC Davis). Her talk was on the "Effects of climate on serpentine plant communities."

Now that the Society is in its second century, we are increasingly digital and online. Please check out the changes in the website of the California Botanical Society ([www.calbotsoc.org](http://www.calbotsoc.org)). The website has links, for example, to a large number of photos from the Centennial on our Facebook page, to YouTube videos of the Symposium talks, to Madroño, as well as information on the upcoming Graduate Student meeting. The central objectives of the Society when it was established were to promote the collection of new information about the flora of the West, to provide a vehicle for disseminating that information, and to educate the public about the value of conserving plant species and habitats found in wild areas throughout our region. The digital evolution of much of these objectives is reflected in our Society's evolution over the last 10 yr.

Because I am transitioning to the Past President position, this will be the last President's Report you will receive from me. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as President and the opportunity to work with hard-working and energetic colleagues on the Council. Thank you for this opportunity. At the same time, I want to remind you that our Society depends on the activities and engagement of its membership. We must broaden our reach to meet the challenges of an environment dominated by humans, work towards the conservation of natural habitats, and continue increase of understanding and knowledge of plant biology.

V. Thomas Parker  
December 2014